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February 10, 2011

**CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT COMMUNICATION**  
**SUBJECT TO F.R.E. 408**

**Via Email and Certified Mail**

**Return Receipt Requested**

Andrea Madigan  
EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop St.  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Re: Gilt Edge Mine Site, Lawrence County, South Dakota  
Request for Information, CoCa Mines, Inc.  
Confidential Business Information Claim

Dear Ms. Madigan:

This letter will serve as a response to your letter dated February 7, 2011, regarding the Gilt Edge Mine Site ("Site") and CoCa Mines, Inc.'s ("CoCa") responses to EPA's requests for information regarding the Site. My office received your letter on February 8, 2011. As you know, on January 24, 2011, CoCa provided additional information to EPA in supplementation to its February 12, 2010 response to the EPA's December 9, 2009 Request for Information regarding the Site. These documents consisted of several insurance policies and correspondence with the insurers.

It is unclear from your letter whether you are providing CoCa with notice of EPA's intention to make a confidentiality determination, or whether you have already determined that the information CoCa has provided is not confidential, and are therefore providing it to your contractor. For clarification, CoCa states that all portions of all documents provided on January 24, 2011, are confidential and should be treated as such on a permanent basis. CoCa has taken all reasonable measures to ensure that these documents have not been disclosed to third parties, and has kept them in its custody and maintained their confidentiality in accordance with standard business practices. To the best of CoCa's knowledge, this confidential information has been disclosed to no third parties, with the potential exception of its parent corporation, Hecla Limited. Disclosure of this information would likely result in substantial harmful effects upon CoCa's competitive position, and could

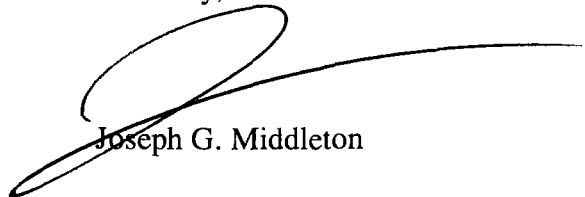
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compromise CoCa's efforts to obtain insurance coverage pursuant to the policies provided to EPA. CoCa is unaware of any pertinent confidentiality determinations regarding these documents made by EPA or other federal agencies.

While CoCa maintains that this information is Confidential Business Information, CoCa also recognizes that a full understanding of all information CoCa has provided may facilitate ongoing settlement negotiations with EPA and the United States Department of Justice ("DOJ"). Thus, CoCa is providing its limited consent, pursuant to 40 C.F.R § 2.209(f), for EPA to disburse the insurance policies provided on January 24, 2011, solely to its consultant Eisenstein-Malanchuk, LLP, for the limited purpose of assessing the extent of CoCa's potential insurance coverage, if any. CoCa does not consent to the disclosure of any correspondence between CoCa and its insurers. CoCa does not consent to the disclosure of the insurance policies provided to EPA on January 24, 2011, to any third party aside from Eisenstein-Malanchuk.

CoCa's consent to this limited disclosure to Eisenstein-Malanchuk is conditioned on the statements in your letter of February 7, 2011, that Eisenstein-Malanchuk will maintain the confidentiality of all information it receives, will not disclose this information to any third party, and will return all documents to EPA upon the completion of its review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph G. Middleton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JGM/gg

cc: Michael Clary, Esq.